

Message Text

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ORIGIN HEW-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AGR-20 EB-11 COME-00 SCI-06

RSC-01 /057 R

DRAFTED BY DHEW/FDA/WJKRUSTKA:MRG

APPROVED BY ARA/MEX:CPTORREY

DHEW/OIH/MACODDING

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P 181907Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 246339

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, MX

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FROM SUBSECRETARIAT

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT

REF: MEXICO 8865

1. THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT ESTABLISHED A REGULATION FOR WASHING OF VEGETABLES TO ELIMINATE HARMFUL BACTERIA. REGULATION 121.1091, CHEMICALS USED IN WASHING OF OR TO ASSIST IN THE LYE PEELING OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, IS BEING POUCHED FOR ATTENTION OF SCIATT. (ALSO BEING POUCHED IS THE CROSS-REFERENCED REGULATION ON SUBSTANCES GENERALLY RECOGNIZED AS SAFE IN FOOD.) IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE ABOVE REGULATION IS FOR THE WASHING OF FRUITS OR VEGETABLES FOR THE PURPOSE OF REMOVING FIELD DIRT. THESE DO NOT ACT TO ELIMINATE HARMFUL BACTERIA, EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT THAT REMOVING FIELD DIRT WILL REMOVE SOME BACTERIA ALSO.

2. WHILE FDA DOES NOT HAVE A FORMAL REGULATION COVERING THE PROCEDURE, THE AGENCY HAS PERMITTED THE USE OF A CHLORINE WASH FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS FOUND TO BEAR PATHOGENIC BACTERIA. THE USUAL PROCEDURE IN THIS CASE IS TO WASH THOROUGHLY (IN CONFORMANCE WITH 121.1091) FOLLOWED BY A UNCLASSIFIED

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RINSE IN POTABLE WATER. THE CHLORINE DIP FOLLOWING THIS IS IN WATER CONTAINING 50 PPM CHLORINE PRODUCED BY INTRODUCING CHLORINE GAS INTO THE WATER. CHLORINE-PRODUCING CHEMICALS ARE NOT CONSIDERED SUITABLE SINCE THIS MAY RESULT IN CHEMICAL RESIDUES ON THE PRODUCT FOR WHICH THERE IS NO APPROVAL. IT SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED THAT SUCH A PROCEDURE MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR ALL RAW AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SINCE SOME MAY NOT BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND THE PROCEDURES INVOLVED.

RUSH

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